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COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

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# REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

**1937**



REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT  
FOR THE YEAR 1937

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee  
of the Isle of Wight County Council.*

Lady and Gentlemen,

This record of health conditions during 1937 is on the whole a favourable one, although there was again for the second successive year a comparative lack of sunshine. The infant mortality rate was 35.8 per 1,000 births, which, while it is not a record, is a low rate ; and there was not much epidemic disease apart from a prevalence of influenza during the early months of the year. The deaths outnumbered the births by 207, and this loss has not been made good this year by an influx of new residents.

Your Committee is now, in April, 1938, losing its veteran Chairman, Dr. R. Robertson, through his resignation of this position which he has held since the constitution of the Committee in 1919. His experience of Public Health administration is much longer than this, however, through his membership of the General Purposes Committee, which dealt with health matters prior to 1919, and his membership of the Ventnor Urban District Council, which started in 1897. These 41 years have seen profound changes in public health work and, indeed, cover practically all its modern developments. I should like to offer him my respectful congratulations on the active and prominent part he has taken in the progress of public health work on the Island, particularly in the eradication of tuberculosis, in measures to increase the efficiency of the midwifery service, to improve the nutrition of children and to ensure a safe milk supply ; and, further, I should like to express my personal indebtedness to him for his constant stimulation and encouragement and for the courtesy and consideration which he and the members of your Committee have invariably extended to me.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES FAIRLEY.

Newport House,  
Newport, I.W.  
*June, 1938.*

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Throughout this report figures in brackets refer to the previous year.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) **Medical.** (1) Whole time.

Medical Officer of Health, Tuberculosis Officer and School Medical Officer	...	...	...	...	James Fairley, M.D., D.P.H.
Assistant County Medical Officers (including tuberculosis, maternity and child welfare, and school medical services) and Medical Officers of Health to various districts	...	...	...	...	W. Semple Wallace, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Deputy County Medical Officer). Hayward Carpenter, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Assistant County Medical Officer (mainly maternity and child welfare, and school medical services)	...				Hilda Linford, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.M.
Dental Surgeon (schools and maternity and child welfare services)	...	...	...	...	Leslie M. Cartwright, L.D.S.
Assistant Dental Surgeon (joint appointment with Newport Borough Education Authority)	...	...			Miss F. M. Macdonald, L.D.S. (until 30/9/37). Miss F. D. Cooper, L.D.S. (from 4/10/37).

## (2) Part time.

Medical Officer, Parkhurst Institution and St. Mary's Hospital	...	...	...	...	George Raymond, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (until 31/12/37). Clement K. Sylvester, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (from 1/1/38).
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The following are District Medical Officers under the Poor Law Acts and Public Vaccinators :—

Brading District	...	H. W. Good, M.B.
Carisbrooke „	...	Arthur A. Straton, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.
Cowes „	...	Arthur E. Hay, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Godshill „	...	James Bruce Williamson, M.A., L.M.S.S.A, F.R.Met.Soc., F.R.A.S.
Ryde „	...	Thomas Sim, M.B., Ch.B.
North Shorwell District		Aubrey Alex. Heathcote, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
South Shorwell „		L. Way, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Newport, South Arreton and Whippingham Districts	...	Stanley Foster, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.
Yarmouth District	...	Harold Y. Mansfield, B.A., M.D., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

(b) **Others.** (1) Whole time.

Dental Attendant	...	...	...	...	Miss F. Willis, S.R.N.
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## (2) Part time.

Public Analyst	...	...	...	...	S. Emsley, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C. (Public Analyst to Southampton County Borough).
Deputy Public Analyst	...	...	...	...	R. Wattridge, Esq., B.Sc., A.I.C., F.I.C.
Health Visitors and School Nurses	...	...	...	...	The nurses of 20 various District Nursing Associations.

TABLE I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Sanitary Authority	Area in Acres	Population at 1931 Census	Registrar General's Estimate of Population for 1937	Structurally Separate Dwellings occupied at 1931 Census	Number of Families or Separate Occupiers 1931 Census	Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1937) according to rate books	Rateable Value up till April, 1938	Estimated Product of 1d. Rate, 1937-38
		*		*	*			
I.W. Rural District (1)	58127	16538	15730	4472	4533	5335	103076	414
Cowes U.D. (1)	5542	16022	15380	4246	4419	5017	101379	374
Newport M.B. (1)	15530	18864	19830	4274	4397	5027	124111	474
Ryde M.B. (2)	7876	18472	17790	5056	5210	5534	143325	541
Sandown-Shanklin U.D. (2)	3509	11615	10900	2740	2839	4167	133079	516
Ventnor U.D. (2)	3562	6943	6060	1712	1750	2288	63375	238
Whole County	94146	88454	85690	22500	23148	27368	668345	2557

(1) Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. S. Wallace.

(2) Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hayward Carpenter.

\* Allowance has been made in these figures for the alteration in local government areas which became operative on 1st April, 1933.



The Registrar General's estimate of population at mid-year was 85,690, which is 240 less than in the previous year. It is of interest to note that the two Boroughs are the only administrative areas which have increased in population during the year—Newport by 70 and Ryde by 10 : whereas the estimated decreases in the other areas are : In Cowes 140, the Rural District 100, Ventnor 50 and Sandown-Shanklin 30.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

TABLE II.—VITAL STATISTICS OF ALL DISTRICTS—1937.

AREA	Rural District	Cowes	Newport	Ryde	Sandown-Shanklin	Ventnor	Whole County	England and Wales : Rate per 1,000
Live Birth-rate per 1000 population ... ..	11.5	14.0	14.6	11.9	9.2	10.2	12.3	14.9
No. of Live Births ... ..	181	216	289	211	100	62	1059	
Males ... ..	94	108	165	111	51	35	564	
Females ... ..	87	108	124	100	49	27	495	
Legitimate : Males ... ..	89	105	154	108	46	34	536	
Females ... ..	79	104	117	92	47	27	466	
Illegitimate : Males ... ..	5	3	11	3	5	1	28	
Females ... ..	8	4	7	8	2	—	29	
No. of Stillbirths ... ..	4	9	14	5	1	3	36	
Males ... ..	2	5	8	4	—	2	21	
Females ... ..	2	4	6	1	1	1	15	
Still Birth-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... ..	21.6	40.0	46.2	23.1	9.9	46.1	32.8	
Legitimate : Males ... ..	1	3	7	4	—	2	17	
Females ... ..	2	4	5	1	1	1	14	
Illegitimate : Males ... ..	1	2	1	—	—	—	4	
Females ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Total No. of Deaths ... ..	216	219	255	314	167	95	1266	
Males ... ..	112	116	137	154	69	37	625	
Females ... ..	104	103	118	160	98	58	641	
Crude death-rate per 1000 ... ..	13.7	14.2	12.9	17.6	15.3	15.7	14.7	12.4
Comparative factor ... ..	0.73	0.79	0.81	0.69	0.73	0.71	0.75	
Comparative death-rate ... ..	10.0	11.2	10.4	12.1	11.2	11.1	11.0	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births ... ..	33.1	32.4	48.4	33.1	20.0	32.2	35.8	58.0
Total Infant Deaths ... ..	6	7	14	7	2	2	38	
No. of Deaths of Legitimate :								
Males ... ..	4	6	10	5	1	—	26	
Females ... ..	2	1	1	1	1	2	8	
No. of Deaths of Illegitimate :								
Males ... ..	—	—	3	1	—	—	4	
Females ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Number of Women dying or in consequence of child birth—								
(a) From Sepsis ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	0.94
(b) From other causes ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2.17
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.02
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	—	1	2	—	—	—	3	0.04
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age) ... ..	1	—	2	—	—	—	3	5.8
Population—								
Registrar General's Estimate ...	15730	15380	19830	17790	10900	6060	85690	

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF DEATHS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY DURING THE YEAR 1937, RELATING TO CIVILIANS ONLY, AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.

Causes of Death	All Ages	0	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75 & over
All Causes...	1266	38	5	11	11	28	74	279	331	489
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Influenza	47	1	—	1	1	—	4	16	4	20
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	34	—	—	—	—	5	13	9	7	—
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases	8	—	—	1	1	2	1	3	—	—
11. Syphilis	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	2
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease	179	—	—	—	—	1	12	59	63	44
14. Diabetes	23	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	10	3
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	97	—	—	—	—	—	1	23	30	43
16. Heart Disease	344	—	—	—	2	2	4	65	107	164
17. Aneurysm	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	3
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	66	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	15	44
19. Bronchitis	39	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	32
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	34	1	1	3	1	—	1	8	13	6
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	14	—	1	—	—	—	2	6	3	2
22. Peptic Ulcer	15	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	6	3
23. Diarrhœa, etc.	8	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	2
24. Appendicitis	8	—	—	1	—	3	1	3	—	—
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
26. Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3
27. Other Digestive Diseases	19	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	6	6
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	40	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	14	14
29. Puerperal Sepsis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Causes	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth, etc.	26	25	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
32. Senility	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	62
33. Suicide	16	—	—	—	—	1	4	9	1	1
34. Other Deaths from Violence	32	—	1	2	1	4	6	4	3	11
35. Other Defined Diseases	110	4	—	1	4	7	10	27	35	22
36. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

The total births on the Island numbered 1,095 (1,101), of which 36 (44) were still births, so the still birth-rate was 32.8 per 1,000 total births compared with 39.9 in the previous year. The still birth-rate in England and Wales was 40 in 1936. The live birth-rate on the Island, when calculated per 1,000 crude population, was 12.3, as against 14.9 in England and Wales, and the still birth-rate was 0.42 compared with 0.60 for England and Wales. These differences are explained by the fact that the Island population contains a comparatively smaller proportion of women of child-bearing age. The live births numbered two more than in the previous year; 564 boys were born and 495 girls, i.e. an excess of 69 boys, but 22 more infant boys died than girls. Thirty-eight infants died in their first year of life (50), so the infant mortality was 35.8 per 1,000 live births (47.3), the rate for England and Wales being 58.0. Of the 38 deaths, 34 were of legitimate infants, i.e. at the rate of 33.9 per 1,000 legitimate births and 4 were of illegitimate infants, which among 57 illegitimate births gives a death-rate of 70.1 per 1,000 illegitimate births. (In the previous year 60 illegitimate infants were born and 4 died.) The proportion of illegitimate births to total births was 5.6 per cent. (6.17).

Twenty-six of the infants' deaths were ascribed to causes which were in operation before birth, 25 of them being congenital debility, etc., and one syphilis; six were caused by diseases of the respiratory system, two of these whooping-cough, one influenza, two pneumonia and one bronchitis; two were due to diarrhœa and four to other causes. There were 16 deaths of children between the ages of one and five years (10).



TABLE IV.—CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICTS DURING THE YEAR 1937,  
RELATING TO CIVILIANS ONLY OF ALL AGES.

Causes of Death								Isle of Wight Rural	Cowes	Newport	Ryde	Sandown- Shanklin	Ventnor	TOTALS
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	216	219	255	314	167	95	1266
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
5. Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	8	3	10	8	8	47
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	8	8	10	2	1	34
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	4	—	—	8
11. Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	3	2	1	1	8
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	1	1	—	4
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	40	35	41	24	14	179
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6	10	—	1	23
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	14	22	18	15	7	97
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	54	67	85	49	27	344
17. Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—	1	7
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12	14	22	4	2	66
19. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	7	10	7	6	3	39
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	5	3	5	8	34
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	2	6	3	—	14
22. Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	1	5	—	3	15
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	2	—	—	—	3
24. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	2	1	8
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
26. Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	3	1	—	1	7
27. Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	7	5	4	2	24
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	10	2	13	6	2	40
29. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
30. Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
31. Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	9	7	1	2	26
32. Senility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11	20	18	8	—	68
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	4	2	3	1	16
34. Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	10	7	8	2	—	32
35. Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	15	14	30	22	8	110
36. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	1	3

One case of Polioencephalitis included each in Ryde and Rural District (heading 35).

There were 1,266 deaths during the year (1,207) and these outnumbered the live births by 207, so the natural decrease of the population was 2·4 per 1,000. (In the previous year the decrease of the population was 1·7 per 1,000, with an excess of 150 deaths over births.) The death-rate in England and Wales was 12·4, and the crude death-rate for the Island was 14·7 per 1,000 population, but when allowance is made for the differences in the local population the comparative figure for the Island is 11·0. The deaths of persons over 64 years of age numbered 820 (765) and constituted 64·7 per cent. of the total deaths (63·4). This is a high percentage of elderly persons (in England and Wales the percentage was 49·4 in 1936), and there is a preponderance in our statistics of the diseases common to the older-age periods. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system caused 514 deaths, which is 406 per 1,000 total deaths as against a proportion of 311 per 1,000 deaths in England and Wales in 1936; and the deaths from cancer numbered 179, compared with 168, 148 and 149 in the three previous years. Influenza caused 47 deaths (17), and 87 were caused by bronchitis, pneumonia, and other respiratory diseases (81). Tuberculosis of the respiratory system caused 34 deaths (37), and other forms of tuberculosis 8 (11). Sixteen were due to suicide (15) and 32 to other forms of violence (35). Diabetes caused 23 deaths (16).

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

No material alteration has been made in the health services provided in the Island.

**National Health Insurance.**—The number of insured persons in the Isle of Wight County Insurance Committee's Register in 1937 averaged 32,854, against 31,928 in 1936, and 31,206 in 1935.

**Local Government Act, 1929.**—No alteration has been made in the medical services transferred to the Council under the provisions of this Act. The scheme under which patients requiring hospital treatment were admitted to St. Mary's Hospital through the Public Health Committee was continued throughout the year and until the 31st March, 1938. The number of these patients in St. Mary's Hospital, apart from maternity cases, on the 1st of January, 1937, was 13, 58 were admitted during the 15 months, 33 were discharged, and 24 died, so there were 14 in hospital on the 31st March, 1938, when they were taken over entirely by the Public Assistance Committee.

The question of the appropriation of St. Mary's Hospital for use as a general hospital was again fully considered by your Committee and the Public Assistance Committee and a conference consisting of representatives from each of these Committees. This consideration extended into the current year, and in March, 1938, the conference came to the conclusion "that this conference does not feel itself in a position to recommend the appropriation of St. Mary's Hospital at the present time." Before arriving at this decision the conference had before them reports from the County Clerk, the Public Assistance Officer and a joint report of the Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. C. K. Sylvester, and the County Medical Officer, and as this last report set out the experience gained in the working of the above scheme it seems appropriate to quote part of it here.

It was in 1933, after a survey of the Island Public Health Services, that the Minister of Health drew the Council's attention to the scarcity of beds for acute and sub-acute medical cases, and asked the Council to consider whether they should appropriate the Infirmary for use as a general hospital. A conference was then held between representatives of the Public Health Committee and representatives of the governing bodies and the medical and surgical staffs of the voluntary hospitals, and the view was expressed then that there was no serious scarcity of beds for this type of case, and that accommodation for them could be provided in the existing voluntary hospitals: on the other hand there might be a need for beds for chronic cases. It was to test the position and because he hoped that the Council would be led to appropriate St. Mary's as a general hospital that the Minister gave his sanction temporarily to the departure from regulation mentioned above: the Minister's approval to this scheme was extended from time to time, but terminated on March 31st, 1938.

Since 1933 the report goes on, when the officers of the Ministry carried out their survey of medical services on the Island, there have been these developments which seem to affect the position.

A Radium Clinic has been established at the County Hospital, and more patients suffering from cancer are now receiving treatment at the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.

An Orthopædic Clinic has been established at the County Hospital to deal with crippling conditions, and more of these patients are being sent to Alton Hospital.

The voluntary contributory scheme of the Royal I.W. County Hospital, launched in 1934, has been remarkably successful, so that in December, 1937, the number of contributors was approximately 30,000. Patients are admitted under this scheme to the two Shanklin hospitals, the Scio Hospital and the Arthur Webster Hospital, as well as to the County Hospital at Ryde. When their families are taken into consideration, these contributors represent a population of at least 45,000 (out of a gross total population of 70,000), and this means that nearly all the "working-class" population of the Island, apart from Cowes, is insured with these voluntary hospitals against hospital treatment. The scheme is complete in the villages and rural areas as regards those within the income scale: in the towns a few have not come in, but the number of these is not substantial. The Frank James Memorial Home (Cottage Hospital), at East Cowes, has a separate contributory scheme on a somewhat different basis, and covering practically all the workers in the Cowes area, which has a gross population of about 15,500.

To meet their commitments under their contributory schemes, the County Hospital opened, in 1937, an additional ward for 16 patients, and the East Cowes Hospital is now building an enlargement which will increase their accommodation by 10 beds. This is expected to be in occupation in about six months.

The voluntary hospitals are of opinion that they are able to provide the hospital treatment required by their contributors, and this is borne out by an examination of the patients admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, which shows that these included few County Hospital contributors apart from maternity cases and chronic, mostly senile, patients, and these the Hospital authorities do not consider suitable for treatment in their own wards.

**Analysis of Cases. A. Medical State.** Particulars of the patients admitted to St. Mary's Hospital through the Public Health Committee during the three years and two months up till the end of 1937 are shown in the following tables, A, B and C. They have constituted approximately 10 per cent. of the patients in the sick wards during the year, the other 90 per cent. being Public Assistance Committee cases. . . .

A careful scrutiny of the cases makes it clear that the great majority were quite unsuitable for treatment in the wards of a general hospital: not more than 30 of them could have been considered for admission to such wards, including seven heart disease, five pneumonia, four diarrhoea, two gastritis, two burns and one each acute abdomen, colitis, sore throat, suicide, arm injury and high blood-pressure. For this reason the suggestion that the Public Health Committee should pay for their treatment in a voluntary hospital would probably prove to be unworkable. There is practically no evidence of shortage of beds in the voluntary hospitals for acute medical cases, and only a few of the patients admitted to St. Mary's Hospital can be classed as sub-acute; they are nearly all chronic cases. The Public Health Committee cases have been of the same type as has been treated through the Guardians in the past and is now being treated through the Public Assistance Committee,



and they have very properly been nursed in the same wards with the Public Assistance cases where they are classified according to the nature of their illness. A separate hospital for Public Health cases alone will not meet the case, because this would be too small to be a separate economic unit and, again, its accommodation would require to be divided into many different wards to permit of proper classification, and this would merely be duplicating the present accommodation. The same objections apply to the appropriation of part of St. Mary's Hospital.

The question has been raised as to whether St. Mary's is suitable for use as a general hospital. It is not entirely suitable, but could be made so by the addition of an operating theatre, x-ray plant, clinical laboratory, lifts for patients, etc. The building is suitable, however, for its present purpose and for the type of patient that has been admitted. Compared with other areas, the Island has a large proportion of elderly persons in its population, and to provide nursing attention for aged and infirm persons when they are unable to look after themselves has been the main function of Parkhurst Institution and St. Mary's Hospital, and so it is likely to remain in the future.

**B. Financial State.** Table C shows that apart from the 23 voluntary hospital contributors (22 County Hospital and one Hospital Savings Association) about one-third were assessed as being able to pay the full cost at the rate of 35/- per week; one-quarter were not required to make any payment, some of them because they died soon after admission; and the remainder were asked to contribute less than the cost of treatment. During the financial year, ended 31st March, 1937, the Public Health Committee paid to the Public Assistance Committee in respect of these patients the sum of £929 5s., and recovered from the patients £371 3s.3d.

NOTE.—The County Hospital Contributory Fund made no cash payments in respect of this period because it had been agreed to balance these against the services rendered to school children by the Voluntary Hospital. The sum of £119 4s. was transferred from the Education account to the Public Health account in respect of this, part of this sum being payable in respect of the cost of radium treatment, and the balance—say £70—in respect of contributors treated at St. Mary's Hospital. When this £70 is added to the £371 3s.3d., the total of £441 3s.3d. is what has been received, as against the payment of £929 5s. This means that the Public Health Committee has received on the average during this year the sum of 16/6 per patient per week, while paying 35/-.

It will be noted that it has not been practicable to draw any sharp distinction between Public Health and Public Assistance cases, either on clinical grounds or according to their financial state, because while some Public Assistance cases pay the full cost many of the Public Health cases have paid less than this. Some of the patients admitted through the Public Health Committee could perhaps have been dealt with more appropriately by the Public Assistance Committee, and, indeed, a number have been transferred from the one Committee to the other after admission.

**CONCLUSION.**—It hardly seems reasonable to transfer the management of the Hospital from the Committee responsible for 90 per cent. of the patients to the Committee responsible for 10 per cent. . . . .

TABLES SHOWING PARTICULARS OF THE ADMISSIONS TO THE SICK WARDS OF ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, ARRANGED THROUGH THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, SINCE NOVEMBER, 1934.

The number of admissions up to the 31st December, 1937, has been 120, as follows :—

1934 (2 months)	...	...	2	1936	...	...	...	46
1935	...	...	24	1937	...	...	...	48

TABLE A—SHOWING THEIR AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.

Ages	Under 2 years	2 to 15	16 to 29	30 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 and over
Males	4	3	4	5	9	10	9
Females	2	4	12	8	14	18	18
TOTALS	6	7	16	13	23	28	27

TABLE B—SHOWING THE AGE AND DURATION OF STAY OF THE 42 FATAL CASES  
17 were males and 25 were females.

In Hospital	Under 40 years of age	40 to 59	60 to 74	75 and over	TOTALS
Under 1 week ... ..	3	1	3	1	8
1-3 weeks ... ..	1	5	4	10	20
3 weeks-3 months ... ..	—	1	6	2	9
Over 3 months ... ..	—	—	1	4	5
TOTALS ... ..	4	7	14	17	42

NOTE.—The fatal cases under 40 years of age were :—

Age	4 months	...	F.	...	Marasmus	...	11 days in hospital.
	„ 16	„	...	M.	...	Diarrhœa and marasmus	5 „ „ „
	„ 3 years	...	M.	...	Acute broncho pneumonia	...	1 day „ „
	„ 38	„	...	F.	...	Suicide	1 „ „ „

#### FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

TABLE C—SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE IN THESE 120 CASES.

County Hospital Contributors	35/- per week	Less than 35/- per week	No Contribution required
22 and in addition 1 member of the Hospital Savings Association.	32	41	24

Of the 24 persons for whom no charge was made—

5 died within a few days of admission, and  
7 were suffering from venereal disease, and for these no charge is ordinarily made.

#### NOTES.—

1. The amounts shown in the table have not always been paid.
2. By agreement with the County Hospital Contributory Fund no voluntary contributor to that fund is required to pay towards the cost of maintenance or treatment for the period during which he is paid for by the fund. No note has been made of the number of contributors to the East Cowes Hospital Fund because no arrangement has been made under which that fund pays the Council for treatment provided to their contributors.
3. The average cost of maintenance and treatment in the Hospital is assessed at 35/- per patient per week, and the Public Health Committee pays the Public Assistance Committee at this rate for each bed occupied by a Public Health case.

The conference after full consideration of all the facts decided to recommend that, after 31st March, 1938, when the above scheme terminated, appropriate cases not admitted through the Public Assistance Officers should be admitted to St. Mary's Hospital only on an Order signed by the Clerk to the Council.

**Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.**—No changes have been made in the administration of Poor Law Medical out-relief since the transfer of the service to the Council. The number of persons in receipt of poor relief in the Isle of Wight in December for each of the last 10 years was as follows :—

Year.	Indoor.†	Outdoor.*	Total.
1928 ...	341 ...	672 ...	1013
1929 ...	352 ...	632 ...	984
1930 ...	354 ...	564 ...	918
1931 ...	360 ...	822 ...	1182
1932 ...	350 ...	912 ...	1262
1933 ...	332 ...	916 ...	1248
1934 ...	316 ...	947 ...	1263
1935 ...	332 ...	984 ...	1316
1936 ...	302 ...	980 ...	1282
1937 ...	314 ...	1001 ...	1315

† These figures do not include the certified mental defectives receiving institutional treatment. In 1937 these numbered 44.

\* These figures include boarded-out children—13 in 1937 ; and also persons in other areas getting out-door relief—39 in 1937.

**Institutional Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives.**—The question of providing more accommodation for mental defectives is still under the consideration of the Public Assistance and the Mental Deficiency Committees.

**Hospital Services and Clinics.**—The following is a list of the Council's clinics and treatment centres :—

		Situation	Accommodation	Days and Times of Clinics
School Clinics	Ryde ...	St. John's Road School ...	2 rooms ...	Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.
	Cowes ...	Denmark Road School ...	2 rooms ...	Fridays, 10 a.m.
	East Cowes	Osborne Road School ...	Divided room ...	2nd and 4th Mondays, 2 p.m.
Special School Clinics (eyes)	Newport ...	Newport House ...	2 rooms ...	Saturdays, 10 a.m.
	Ryde ...	School of Art ...	1 room ...	Mondays, 2 p.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensaries	Newport ...	Newport House ...	2 rooms ...	Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m.
	Havenstreet	Longford Sanatorium ...	3 rooms ...	Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.
Ante-natal Clinics	Newport ...	Nursing Home ...	2 rooms ...	Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m.
	Cowes ...	Northwood House ...	2 rooms ...	2nd and 4th Thursdays, 10 a.m.
	East Cowes	The Dispensary ...	1 room ...	By appointment.
	Freshwater	Nursing Home ...	2 rooms ...	2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30 p.m.
	†Lake ...	Women's Institute Hall, Lake ...	1 room ...	1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
	‡Ventnor ...	St. Catherine's Church Hall ...	2 rooms ...	2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30 p.m.
Post-natal Clinic	Newport ...	Newport House ...	3 rooms ...	Wednesdays, 5.30 p.m.
*Orthopædic Clinic	Ryde ...	County Hospital ...	Out-patient Dept. ...	1st Wednesdays, 2.30 p.m.
Radium Officer's Clinic	Ryde ...	County Hospital ...	Out-patient Dept. ...	4th Fridays, 3.15 p.m.
Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases	Newport ...	Newport House ...	3 rooms ...	
Mental Welfare Clinics	Newport ...	Newport House ...	2 rooms ...	Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.
	Ryde ...	County Hospital ...	3 rooms ...	Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.
	Cowes ...	Northwood House ...	2 rooms ...	Mondays, 2.30 p.m.
Dental Clinics for Necessitous Mothers	Ryde ...	School Clinic ...	2 rooms ...	4th Saturdays, 9 a.m.
	Newport ...	Newport House ...	2 rooms ...	Saturdays, 9 a.m.

\* Started April, 1937. Previous to this date orthopædic cases were seen by arrangement at the Portsmouth School Clinic. † Started January, 1938. ‡ Ceased December, 1937.

The Ambulance facilities on the Island are adequate. For infectious cases there are two ambulances, one at each of the infectious diseases hospitals—at Fairlee a motor ambulance and at Ventnor a horse ambulance. For non-infectious and accident cases there are five motor ambulances ; one at the County Hospital, Ryde, one at Parkhurst Institution, and two belonging to the Island Branch of the Red Cross Society. One of these last is stationed at Mr. Cheverton's Garage (Telephone : Newport 401, or telephone the Police, Newport 39),



and the other at Freshwater (Telephone : Freshwater 12). There is also an ambulance in Shanklin belonging to Mr. Pocock at Bartlett's Garage (Telephone : Shanklin 45). This is subsidised by the Sandown-Shanklin Council and is available for local urgent cases.

### BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920 and 1938.

In accordance with these Acts and after consultation with the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind, a scheme has been prepared and is in operation under which all assistance to blind persons is made by the Society. The Committee of the Society has been strengthened by the inclusion of not less than six members appointed by the Council, all of them members of the General Purposes Committee, and the grants are assessed by a special Case Sub-Committee consisting of 12 members, of which three are members of the Council. The grants are made according to an agreed scale after careful assessment of the blind person's means. The Society employs a Home Teacher who visits the blind persons in their homes, supervises and assists them in their work and teaches Braille and pastime occupations to the unemployable blind. At the end of December, 1937, 33 persons were in receipt of an allowance from the Society.

There were in all 128 registered blind persons in the Island at the end of 1937 (126), of whom none were under school age and four were between five and 16 years of age. These are sent to special schools for the blind by the education authorities, and older blind persons needing training are also sent to suitable institutions by the Higher Education Committee. One man, who was under training at the Portsmouth workshops as boot and shoe repairer, completed his training in July and is now in work in Ventnor. There were 24 blind persons between the ages of 16 and 50 years and 100 over 50 years of age.

### NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

At the beginning of the year 31 Homes were registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, and during the year 1 application for registration was received and this was granted. In one case the registration certificate was voluntarily returned for cancellation, so at the end of the year there were 31 Nursing Homes registered, 10 for maternity cases only, 15 for maternity and other patients, and six for non-maternity cases.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HEALTH.

Twenty lectures were given during the year by the medical staff on various health matters, 14 of these being to Women's Institutes. In October a leaflet setting out the health services of the Council was widely circulated to Women's Institutes, Infant Welfare Centres, etc., and copies were displayed in all the Post Offices.

### WATER.

The rainfall was again above the average and there was no shortage of water in any part of the Island. No meeting was held during the year of the Regional Water Committee.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

TABLE V.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES FROM EACH AREA SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

District	New Milk	Other Samples	Total	Remarks
Alum Bay ... ..	1	—	1	
Binstead ... ..	1	—	1	
Brighstone ... ..	1	—	1	
Calbourne ... ..	1	—	1	
Carisbrooke ... ..	6 (1d.)	2	8	
Cowes ... ..	2	7	9	
East Cowes ... ..	2 (1d.)	—	2	
Freshwater ... ..	5	2	7	
Godshill ... ..	1	—	1	
Gurnard ... ..	3	2	5	
Havenstreet ... ..	—	2	2	
Haylands ... ..	—	2	2	
Lake ... ..	1	—	1	
Newport ... ..	7 (3d.)	5	12	
Northwood ... ..	1	1	2	
Porchfield ... ..	1 (1d.)	—	1	
Ryde ... ..	17 (5d.)	3	20	
Sandown ... ..	7 (2d.)	3	10	
Shalfleet ... ..	4 (2d.)	—	4	
Shanklin ... ..	7 (3d.)	—	7	
Totland ... ..	1 (1d.)	2	3	
Ventnor ... ..	7 (3d.)	3	10	
Wellow ... ..	1	—	1	
Whitwell ... ..	3	—	3	
Wootton ... ..	3	2	5	
Wroxall ... ..	5 (1d.)	—	5	
Yarmouth ... ..	5	4	9	
	93 (23d.)	40	133	

(d.) Dirty.

The number of samples sent to the Public Analyst for examination, in 1937, was 133. One of the milk samples was broken in transit, so 92 milk samples were examined and 40 others. It is very satisfactory to report that all the samples examined were certified to be genuine : this is the first year that no sample has been found adulterated. Twenty-three of the milk samples contained visible dirt, one of them in large quantity.

Of the non-milk samples, four were of mineral waters, three each were of tea, white pepper, butter, margarine, beef sausages, lard, and two each were of ground almonds, rice, sugar, tinned salmon, tinned sardines, herrings in tomato sauce, mixed fruit, canned peas and liver pills. Of the sausage samples one was certified to contain 157 parts per million of sulphur dioxide preservative : this amount is permissible. In the case of one of the samples of liver pills, the composition did not entirely agree with the statement on the label : the pill was a liver pill but of different composition. The vendor's attention was drawn to this.

### **MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.**

At the beginning of the year five farmers held licences as producers of Tuberculin Tested milk, and four of them had distributors' licences also. Three additional producers' licences were issued during the year, only one of these being also a distributor ; and one licence as producer and distributor lapsed at the end of September, when the holder left his farm. At the end of the year there were therefore seven licences held by producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and four of these held distributors' licences also.

In order to ensure that these milks reach the required standard of cleanliness, samples are examined at frequent intervals. Of 54 first samples, 43 complied with the requirements and 11 did not. Second samples taken in these 11 cases all reached the required standard with one exception, and in this case a third sample was found to be satisfactory. No licences were revoked or suspended.

The accredited producers' licences held at the beginning of the year numbered 57, of which nine were also distributors. Five of these licences were given up during the year : two of them (producers only) because they left their farms, and three (two producers only and one producer and distributor) because the holders took out licences for Tuberculin Tested milk. Six fresh licences were issued during the year, five producers only and one producer and distributor : so at the end of the year 58 producers' licences were in force, nine of them being distributors also. The number of first samples of accredited milk examined was 303, of which 262 reached the required standard of cleanliness and 41 failed. Second samples in these 41 cases were found satisfactory in 30, but 11 still failed to comply with the standard : and third samples were satisfactory in 10 of these 11, but one still failed to pass the tests. A fourth sample in this case reached the required standard. No licences were revoked or suspended.

The procedure adopted in administering this Order was fully set out in last year's report, and close co-operation with the officers of the sanitary authorities has been continued.

During the year the Agricultural Education Sub-Committee conducted a seventh Clean Milk Competition extending over the three months April, May and June, and it was again demonstrated that without expensive plant and specially constructed buildings it is possible to produce milk of a high hygienic quality which keeps well. There were 15 competitors owning 328 cows. Every competitor was visited and advised how existing methods and conditions might be improved on the most economical lines, and in any case of disappointing results the routine methods on the farm were closely examined and suggestions made for rectifying the defects. Mr. J. McClelland, Advisory Bacteriologist, National Institute for Research in Dairying, Reading, again kindly acted as Inspecting Judge, visiting and advising at the farms. In his critical report he praises highly the condition of cleanliness inside the cowsheds : no effort had been spared to make the sheds clean in all except two cases, but more care should have been given to the cleanliness of the cows and to thorough sterilisation of the utensils in preparation for every milking ; and he remarks that generally the yards around the cowsheds and dairy and the approaches to the cowsheds were untidy and unclean, and that this is one feature to which more attention should be given by Island farmers. These competitions are valuable from the educative point of view ; steady improvement is taking place in milk production, and the clean milk competitions are one of the agencies furthering this improvement.

**Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925**, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 78 (87) examinations were made by the Veterinary Inspectors. In three (5) cases in which examination was called for, the presence of tuberculosis was not confirmed. Seventy-eight animals were found to be suffering from tuberculosis (82), of which six were classed as tuberculosis of the udder, 35 were tuberculous emaciation, and 37 other forms of tuberculous disease. Seventy-two were cows in milk and six were other bovine animals.



## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE VI.—NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH DURING THE 53 WEEKS ENDED 1ST JANUARY, 1938.

	Isle of Wight Rural District	Cowes	Newport	Ryde	Sandown- Shanklin	Ventnor	Totals
Small Pox...	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (—)
Scarlet Fever ...	7	24	20	9	16	4	80 (64)
Diphtheria ...	1	3	28	2	—	1	35 (13)
Enteric Fever ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	2 (3)
Pneumonia ...	5	6	5	1	12	3	32 (16)
*Puerperal Fever ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	2 (3)
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	—	1	2	—	1	8 (12)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1 (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	2 (—)
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	2 (—)
Erysipelas... ..	2	4	16	1	4	1	28 (18)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	2	—	—	1	1	4 (1)
Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	2 (—)
Undulant Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (1)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	9	13	15	13	9	22	81 (61)
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	10	7	10	9	2	5	43 (22)
Totals ...	38	64	99	38	44	39	322 (214)

\* Notifiable as Puerperal Pyrexia after 30th September, 1937.

The notifications of infectious disease to the various medical officers of health numbered 322, as against 214, 371, 409, 243 and 250 in the five previous years. There were more cases of nearly all the notifiable diseases than in the previous year, when the numbers were unusually low. There was no case of small pox for the seventh successive year.

Scarlet Fever notifications numbered 80, as against 64, 171, 152, 71 and 60 in the preceding five years. Cowes, with 24 cases, had again the greatest number of cases (31 in 1936); Newport had 20, as against 13 in 1936, and Sandown-Shanklin had 16 (9). The disease is of a mild type and caused no death. In the last 10 years there have been only four deaths from scarlet fever on the Island.

There were 28 notifications of erysipelas (18), of which 16 were in Newport and the others were distributed over the other districts. Puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia notifications numbered 10 (15), these also being scattered fairly evenly over the Island: see under section dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare later in this report.

Diphtheria notifications numbered 35 (13), of which 28 were in Newport. Twenty-three of the Newport cases occurred in the last quarter of the year. There was no death from diphtheria. In the last 10 years there have been 12 deaths from diphtheria on the Island. Preventive inoculation against diphtheria is not practised here.

Two cases of enteric fever were notified—both in Cowes. One of these was paratyphoid B. In the last 10 years there have been four deaths from enteric fever on the Island.

It may be mentioned that a party of about 100 Basque refugee children arrived in May and were housed in Weston Manor, Totland; their numbers were later increased to about 120. As they had been in contact with typhoid fever patients before coming to this area, they were all given preventive inoculation. No cases of typhoid occurred among them.

Thirty-two notifications were received of primary pneumonia or of influenzal pneumonia (16). There were 47 deaths from influenza, as against 17 in 1936.

The notifications of tuberculosis numbered 124, as against 77 in the previous year: see the following section.

There were four notifications of diseases of the central nervous system, viz, two of acute poliomyelitis and one each of cerebro spinal meningitis and of encephalitis lethargica. As in the previous year, there were two fatal cases of these diseases, one of encephalitis lethargica, which was not notified before death, and the other of cerebro spinal fever.

There was greater prevalence of non-notifiable infectious diseases during 1937 than in the previous year, according to the returns made by head teachers, the two diseases causing most absences from school being influenza, in the early part of the year, and mumps. Measles was increasing in prevalence towards the end of the year. There was a fair number of cases of whooping cough, which caused three deaths.

Four cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified; these all made a complete recovery.

Year	Cases			Vision Un-impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	In Hospital				
1937	4	4	—	4	—	—	—

**Vaccination.**—Table VII sets out the vaccination returns compared with those of previous years. No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention Regulations, 1917).

Year	1 Births Registered	2 Vaccinated	3 Insusceptible	4 Dead. Unvaccinated	5 Conscientious Objection	6 Postponed	7 Removed	8 Unaccounted	Percentage not Vaccinated, i.e., Columns 5, 6, 7 and 8
1933	1081	309	3	43	682	5	28	11	67·1
1934	960	300	1	26	567	13	30	23	65·9
1935	980	256	—	37	612	14	41	20	70·0
1936	988	313	—	32	602	9	29	3	65·1
1937	1066	312	5	28	652	8	54	7	67·6

### TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE VIII.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND THE DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory System		Other Forms		Respiratory System		Other Forms	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	—	1	6	4	—	—	—	1
5— ...	—	—	12	4	}	—	1	—
10— ...	—	—	1	3		—	—	—
15— ...	4	6	2	2		1	4	2
20— ...	6	8	—	1		4	2	—
25— ...	13	7	1	2	4	2	—	—
35— ...	12	6	2	1	5	2	—	1
45— ...	7	5	2	—	3	1	1	1
55— ...	3	2	—	—	3	2	—	1
65 and upwards...	4	1	—	—	5	2	—	—
	49	36	26	17	21	13	4	4

The new cases shown in Table VIII include all the primary notifications and also any new cases coming otherwise to the notice of the medical officer during the year. These last numbered 22, 18 being transfers from other areas (6) and the death returns giving the first information in four. The primary notifications numbered 106, making up the total of 128 “new” cases, as against 100 and 117 in the two preceding years. Eighty-five of them suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis (71) and 43 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (29). This is the greatest number of fresh cases in any year for six years, and the number of non-pulmonary cases, viz., 43, is the highest recorded. Twenty-three, or more than half, of these non-pulmonary cases were tuberculous glands in the neck, 12 were abdominal tuberculosis, two were tuberculosis of the hip, two of the knee, one of bones in foot, one of bone in shoulder, one of sacrum and sacro iliac joint, and one of meningitis.

Although the notifications have increased, the deaths from tuberculosis numbered 42 (48), which is less than in any previous year of which we have record. Thirty-four of these deaths were caused by pulmonary tuberculosis, 21 males and 13 females, and eight by non-pulmonary tuberculosis. In the following table these figures are compared with those of previous years.

Yearly average number of deaths from tuberculosis for the quinquennium.	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1901—5 ...	138	114	24
1906—10 ...	131	100	31
1911—15 ...	86	73	13
1916—20 ...	85	73	12
1921—25 ...	89	75	14
1926—30 ...	69	56	13
1931—35 ...	54	44	10
For the year 1936 ...	48	37	11
„ 1937 ...	42	34	8

The deaths of unnotified persons numbered only 4 (17), two in Cowes and one each in Ryde and Ventnor. All were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. One of them had no medical attention until sudden illness developed 36 hours before death, and another had recently come here from elsewhere, and her doctor assumed that notification had been made from that area. The other two cases had been receiving medical attention for years: in one of these the diagnosis was not definite until shortly before death, and in the other the doctor understood that notification had been made years before. It is clear that these omissions to notify were through inadvertence, and that the doctors are co-operating fully with this department in notifying their cases.



Table IX summarises the changes in the tuberculosis register during the calendar year.

Number of Patients	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
On Register at end of 1936 ... ..	170	148	54	57	224	205
Added during 1937 (new cases) ... ..	35	28	26	17	61	45
Cases removed from other areas ... ..	11	7	—	—	11	7
Old cases readmitted ... ..	—	2	1	—	1	2
Gross Total ... ..	216	185	81	74	297	259
Removed to other areas during 1937 ...	10	9	3	—	13	9
Removed—Diagnosis unconfirmed ...	1	3	1	—	2	3
Removed from the Register as being						
“Cured” ... ..	4	8	5	12	9	20
Died during 1937 ... ..	†18	†14	*4	2	22	16
Died from other diseases ... ..	4	—	—	—	4	—
Totals to be removed from Register ...	37	34	13	14	50	48
Number on Register at the end of 1937...	179	151	68	60	247	211

\* One notified non-pulmonary case died from pulmonary tuberculosis.

† Three notified pulmonary cases died from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (1 male and 2 female).

The figures in this table are based on the tuberculosis registers of notified cases which are kept by the medical officers of health of the sanitary districts, so the four deaths of unnotified persons do not appear in the table, nor are transfers shown from one Island district to another. At the beginning of the year there were 429 persons on the Island notified as suffering from tuberculosis (416). There were added during the year 106 new cases (77), 18 cases who came here from other areas (6), two who had previously been taken off the registers as having left the Island or lost sight of (5), and one case who had previously been removed from the register as “recovered”; 22 patients removed to other areas (23), 42 died during the year (33), four of these from a cause apart from tuberculosis, and 34 were taken off the registers (19), the reason being in 29 cases because they were cured, and in five because the diagnosis was not confirmed. At the end of the year, therefore, 458 names remained on the register.

One thousand three hundred and thirty-six observation and nursing visits were paid to tuberculous patients by the district nurses (1173). The Council pays at the rate of 1/- for each health visit and for certain nursing visits in approved cases, and the expenditure under this heading amounted to £61 11s. (£53 17s.).

Under the Council's tuberculosis scheme, patients suffering or suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis are examined at the dispensary at Newport House on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9.30, no appointments being necessary. When the patients cannot attend then, they are given a special appointment or are visited at home; three-fourths of the notified patients are under observation at the dispensary. At the end of the year there were 348 patients on the dispensary books, 240 of whom were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 108 from other forms of the disease; 61 were children under 15 years of age and 287 were adults. In addition, 60 persons were under observation at the end of the year for the purpose of diagnosis, making a total of 408 on the dispensary books (361).

TABLE X.—SHOWS THE DISPENSARY WORK COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	New Persons examined	Dispensary Attendances	Home Visits	Bacteriological Examinations of Sputum	
				For Tuberculosis Officer	For Medical Practitioners
1931 ...	199	337	266	62	135
1932 ...	203	389	228	72	141
1933 ...	188	380	188	50	178
1934 ...	246	435	231	54	162
1935 ...	323	615	255	99	191
1936 ...	253	550	190	138	212
1937 ...	321	626	183	153	180

The number of attendances at or in connection with the dispensaries, viz., 626, was greater than in any previous year, and the number of new persons examined, 321, was only two less than the highest annual figure, reached in 1935. Sixty-two of these last were contacts, as against 45 in the previous year. Forty-four of these contacts were children and 18 were adults, and while some of them are still under observation, none have been found to be suffering from tuberculosis. Fourteen were patients transferred from other areas, two were cases who had been seen previously and who had left the Island, and 243 were referred by their private doctors for diagnosis or treatment, of whom 159 were adults and 84 were children. Sixty-three of the adults were tuberculous (35 men and 28 women) and 26 of the children (14 boys and 12 girls): 51 suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis and 38 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, of whom 14 were adults (five men and nine women) and 24 were children (14 boys and 10 girls).



During the year ending 31st March, 1938, 201 x-ray examinations were made, as against 143 and 112 in the two previous years. Of these examinations 168 were made at the Royal National Hospital, Ventnor, 26 of them were at the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, Ryde, and 7 at the Arthur Webster Hospital, Shanklin.

One new sleeping shelter was purchased during the year and one was sold to a patient, and at the end of the year the Council had 19 shelters in use, a few at Longford Sanatorium and the others loaned to patients for use in their own gardens. Some half-dozen of these shelters have been in constant use now for 13 years, and up to date only one has become worn out. Minor repairs are of course necessary from time to time, but they are giving good service.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1938, a daily ration of milk was given to 21 patients, for periods varying from five to 52 weeks. At the beginning of the year 10 patients were receiving grants, 11 were added during the year, and at the end of the year 10 were in receipt of milk. The cost of this extra nourishment was £48 6s.3d. (£45 13s.4d. and £30 17s.7d. in the two previous years).

TABLE XI.—SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED AT VARIOUS SANATORIA AND HOSPITALS DURING 1937.

Sanatorium or Hospital	Resident at beginning of year	Admitted during year	Discharged during year (inc. Deaths)	Remaining end of year
Longford Sanatorium ... ..	33	119	115	37
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton ... ..	5	3	3	5
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor ... ..	1	*9	8	2
Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, Oxford ...	—	1	1	—
Totals ... ..	39	132	127	44

\* Includes 4 cases admitted for a few days only.

**Residential Treatment.**—The number of persons admitted to institutions during the year for treatment or for observation for the purpose of diagnosis was 132, as against 80 in the previous year, and, in addition, five tuberculous patients were admitted to St. Mary's Hospital. This increase is partly due to the greater accommodation at Longford provided by the new Catharine Bowen Home.

Patients with pulmonary disease are sent to the Royal National Hospital, Ventnor, when some special form of treatment is required which cannot be provided at Longford; and of the nine patients admitted to that Hospital during the year, one was for division of adhesions in pneumo thorax treatment, one for phrenicotomy, and two for lipiodol injection and x-ray investigation. Some of these patients are in hospital for short periods only.

At the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, at Alton, there were at the beginning of the year five children under treatment, of whom four suffered from tuberculosis of the spine and one of the hip. Two of the spine cases were discharged during the year with the disease quiescent; in both, the period of hospital treatment was a little more than two years (24½ and 25½ months respectively). Three children with tuberculous disease were admitted to Alton Hospital during the year. One was discharged with the disease (in the shoulder) quiescent after eight months' residence, and the other two, with disease in the spine and the hip respectively, were still in hospital at the end of the year: the spine case was a readmission on account of recrudescence of disease. Altogether there were five children in Alton at the end of the year. The lad admitted to the Wingfield Morris Hospital suffering from tuberculosis of the spine died there after six months in hospital.

It is to Longford Sanatorium that patients with pulmonary tuberculosis are sent when they require residential treatment, unless they require some special form of treatment that cannot be provided there. The number of admissions during the year was 119 (70), of whom 65 were adults (36) and 54 were children (34).

Further details of the patients treated at Longford Sanatorium are as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
In residence on 31st December, 1936 ...	10	12	11	33
Admitted during the year ... ..	31	34	54	119
Discharged during the year ... ..	23	33	53	109
Died during the year ... ..	4	2	—	6
In residence 31st December, 1937 ... ..	14	11	12	37

Of the 109 persons discharged during the year, 47 had been admitted for diagnosis (four adults and 43 children). All these were discharged as non-tuberculous, with the exception of two children, where the diagnosis was still doubtful. The average duration of stay of the 58 persons discharged was 175·3 days (148·2 in 1935, 81·0 in 1934, 104·4 in 1933, and 94·6 in 1932), but this includes those already mentioned as not tuberculous.

The 62 patients definitely suffering from tuberculosis remained in the institution for 204·4 days on the average (257·5 days), 22 of them were men, 30 were women, and 10 were children. In 12 cases the disease was classified as quiescent on discharge; the other 50 patients still had active disease, although many of them had improved.

The average number of patients in the Sanatorium during 1937 was 34 (29), and the number of patient-weeks amounted to 1,765, as against 1,532 and 1,496 in the two previous years. The accommodation for patients is, officially, 35 beds, 21 for adults and 14 for children, but there are a number of sleeping shelters in the grounds, so that as many as 45 patients have been under treatment in the Institution at one time. An institution such as this works most economically when the beds are fully occupied, and your Committee have therefore agreed to admit patients from London if and when the beds are not required for Island patients. During the year the London County Council sent four patients (women), of whom two were discharged and two were in the Sanatorium on the 31st of December. These are included in the figures given above. The cost of their treatment is paid by the London County Council.

The cost of treatment per patient-week averaged £1 17s.7d. for the financial year ending 31st March, 1938, and the patients' contributions averaged 5/4, compared with £1 14s.7d. and 6/- for the previous year and £1 16s.4d. and 4/9 for the year ended March, 1936.

The Catharine Bowen Home for Children, described in last year's report, was completed and opened on 17th June by the Bishop of Portsmouth, in the presence of a large number of persons from all over the Island. The new pavilion contains 14 beds for children in two wards of seven each, one for boys and one for girls, and is admirably suited for its purpose. The children admitted are those with non-infectious tuberculosis, and also debilitated children who are not tuberculous, and while the pavilion is administered from the main building—these children do not come in contact with the adult patients. The pavilion is of the greatest value in the treatment of these children, and has been fully occupied since it came into use.

### VENEREAL DISEASES.

Mention has repeatedly been made in these reports of the fact that there is little venereal disease on the Island, but in 1937 there was an increase in the number of patients suffering from gonorrhœa. The average number of these patients presenting themselves at the treatment centres was, for the previous 10 years, 17·7 : 41 attended in 1938, of whom 38 were fresh infections (25 males and 13 females). Five of these had been seen at treatment centres elsewhere before coming under treatment here (four males and one female). This rise was mainly due to an increase in the number of cases from the Cowes and East Cowes area, which had 16 cases (eight males and eight females), and your Committee decided, therefore, to have notices posted in that area calling attention to the facilities provided for treatment and the desirability of taking full advantage of these. Towards the end of the year the number of fresh infections from these areas had dropped back to normal. Only one patient attended suffering from primary syphilis, and he contracted his infection elsewhere.

At the beginning of the year 25 patients were under treatment, 18 for syphilis and seven for gonorrhœa. Ninety-six persons attended during the year for diagnosis or treatment, of whom nine were transferred from other centres and 87 were new attendances. Thirty-nine of these last were not suffering from venereal disease and, of the remaining 57, 11 had syphilis, 36 had gonorrhœa and one had soft chancre. At the end of the year 35 patients were under treatment, of whom 22 had syphilis and 13 gonorrhœa. The number of out-patient attendances to see the medical officer was 710, as against 594 in 1936, and the total number of attendances was 1,004. Seven patients suffering from gonorrhœa were admitted to hospital. One female patient was in the Royal Free Hospital, London, for 29 days: five (females) were in St. Mary's Hospital, Parkhurst, for an aggregate number of 353 days, and three of these were still in hospital at the end of the year : and one (male) was in St. Mary's Hospital for 17 days' treatment. No alteration has been made in the arrangements for treatment. The Treatment Centre is at the Newport House Clinic, where treatment is entirely confidential and is free to all. The sessions for females are attended by a woman doctor. Particulars of the work done at the Centre are shown in Table XII.

Some particulars of the attendances in 1937 compared with that of previous years are shown in the following table :—

Year	No. of New Applicants	Number Suffering from Venereal Diseases						No. of Days of In-Patient Treatment	No. of Attendances by Patients
		Total	Syphilis		Gonorrhœa		Other Venereal Diseases		
Yearly average—			M.	F.	M.	F.			
1918-1920 (3 years)	107	71*	26	19	20	7	—	132	801
1921-1925 (5 years)	72	29*	11	8	8	1·6	1·2	14	702
1926-1930 (5 years)	110	38	13	7	14	4	—	22	1236
1931-1935 (5 years)	99	34*	10	6	13	5	0·2	197	1189
1936 ...	100	29*	6	3	9	10	1	433	705
1937 ...	87	48	8	3	23	13	1	399	1024

\* Includes patients suffering from more than one venereal disease.



TABLE XII.—RELATING TO ALL PERSONS WHO WERE TREATED AT THE TREATMENT CENTRE AT NEWPORT DURING THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhœa		Conditions other than Venereal		TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1. No. of cases who, on the 1st Jan., 1937, were under treatment or observation for ... ..	12	5	—	—	1	7	—	—	13	12	
2. Old patients readmitted during year ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3. No. dealt with during the year in the out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from	8	3	1	—	23	13	10	29	42	45	
4. No. of cases transferred from other areas ... ..	4	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	8	1	
Total ... ..	24	8	1	—	28	21	10	29	63	58	
5. No. of cases discharged from the out-patient Clinic after completion of treatment and final tests of cure	1	—	—	—	1	8	10	29	12	37	
6. No. of cases which ceased to attend the out-patient Clinic before completion of treatment for ... ..	—	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	3	3	
7. No. of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure of ...	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	3	2	
8. No. of cases transferred to other Treatment Centres or to care of Private Practitioners ... ..	6	1	1	—	15	3	—	—	22	4	
9. No. of cases who, on the 31st Dec., 1937, were under treatment or observation for ... ..	17	5	—	—	6	7	—	—	23	12	
Total—Items 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 ...	24	8	1	—	28	21	10	29	63	58	
10. Out-patient attendances—											
(a) For individual attention by the Medical Officer ... ..	195	87	3	—	144	214	11	56	353	357	
(b) For intermediate treatment, e.g., irrigation, dressings, etc.	—	—	—	—	289	25	—	—	289	25	
11. Aggregate No. of "In-patient days" of treatment given to persons who were suffering from ...	—	—	17	—	—	382	—	—	17	382	
12. Examination of Pathological material—					For Detection of			For Wassermann Reaction			
					Spirochetes	Gonococci	Other Organisms				
					(a) Specimens which were examined at, and by the Medical Officer of, the Treatment Centre ... ..						
					(b) Specimens from persons attending at the Treatment Centre which were sent for examination to an approved laboratory ... ..	—	—	17	—	—	382

A. No. of persons from each area dealt with during the year at, or in connection with, the out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from :—

	Isle of Wight	London	Southampton	Portsmouth	TOTALS
Syphilis ... ..	11	—	—	—	11
Soft Chancre ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Gonorrhœa ... ..	31	3	1	1	36
Conditions other than venereal ... ..	39	—	—	—	39
	82	3	1	1	87
B. Total No. of attendances at the out-patient Clinic of all patients residing in each area ...	970	44	6	4	1024
C. Aggregate No. of "In-patient days" ... ..	399	—	—	—	399

106 injections were given of arsenobenzine compounds (106) and 234 of bismuth preparations (211).

### CANCER.

The arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer are generally the same as were described in last year's annual report, and these seem to be adequate in all respects, except that there is no deep x-ray plant available within a convenient distance, and this means that patients requiring this treatment have to be sent to one of the London hospitals. An extension is now being built at the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, where there is a Regional Radium Centre which serves this area, and when this extension is completed deep x-ray therapy will be provided there.

The Radium Officer at the Southampton Centre holds a clinic at Ryde each month at the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital. This arrangement was made by the Council so that patients can be seen by him without having to undertake the journey to Southampton, and it has the effect also of bringing him into closer co-operation with the medical practitioners on the Island. The clinic is a centre for diagnosis, consultation, and the following up of patients, and good use is being made of it. Patients attend from all over the Island: last year 24 attended from E. and W. Cowes, 16 from Newport, 13 from Yarmouth and Freshwater, 12 from Ryde, eight from Ventnor and Niton, and four from Sandown-Shanklin.

The number of new patients attending was 39, and the average attendance at each session was 23.

Surgical treatment is provided at the voluntary hospitals on the Island, and patients requiring radium treatment attend at the Southampton Hospital: the number admitted there for in-patient treatment at public expense was 30 (28), of whom six had received radium treatment previously. Two of these patients were in hospital twice during the year, three were there three times and one was admitted four times. In addition, one patient was sent to London for deep x-ray therapy. Their hospital treatment amounted to 620 patient-days, and the gross cost to the Council was £255 15s.2d. The nett cost was £161 8s.11d., because the County Hospital paid £78 18s. in respect of 17 of their contributors (nine months period), the Hospital Savings Association paid £1 14s.3d. for one patient, and contributions amounting to £13 14s. were required from six other patients: seven patients were not in a position to make any contribution. The Council paid also the sum of £2 9s.6d. in respect of out-patient treatment at the Southampton Hospital, so that the nett cost to the rates of this service has been £163 18s.5d.

Up till the end of the year all the admissions to the Southampton Hospital were made through this department, and the Council has paid that hospital's charges at the rate of 12/- per day for patients receiving radium treatment and 7/8½ per day for other patients: the County Hospital Contributory Fund repaid the Council 6/- per day in respect of any patients who were contributors under their scheme. (This was from the 1st April, 1937, to the 31st December; prior to this a modified arrangement was in operation.) From the beginning of 1938, however, the County Hospital are arranging direct with the Southampton Hospital for the radium treatment of their contributors, and in future the Council is dealing only with the patients who are not voluntary County Hospital contributors.

The number of patients suffering from cancer who were admitted to St. Mary's Hospital during the year was 19 (24), of whom 12 had already received treatment in other hospitals and seven had not been to any other hospital. In all these cases the disease was advanced, and palliative treatment only was indicated. Neither operative nor radium treatment is provided at St. Mary's Hospital. The number of deaths from cancer in the hospital was 15 (21), and the total number of cancer deaths on the Island was 179, 75 males and 104 females.

The following table shows in 5-yearly periods the proportion which the cancer deaths bear to the total deaths of persons over 45 years of age.

5-yearly Periods	Deaths from all Causes		Deaths due to Cancer	Percentage which the figures in Column (3) bear to Column (2)
	Total Deaths	Deaths over 45 years of age		
1916—1920 ... ..	(1) 5660	(2) 3901	(3) 604	15·5
1921—1925 ... ..	5417	4182	732	17·5
1926—1930 ... ..	5620	4537	799	17·6
1931—1935 ... ..	5753	4895	823	16·8
Year 1936 ... ..	1207	1035	168	16·2
„ 1937 ... ..	1266	1099	179	16·3



## PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

The work done at the laboratory in each of the last five years is shown in the following table :—

Year	Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	Other Specimens	TOTAL
1933 ...	228	238	174	640
1934 ...	216	242	136	594
1935 ...	290	329	153	772
1936 ...	350	304	305	959
1937 ...	333	482	504	1319

One thousand three hundred and nineteen specimens were examined in 1937, which is a substantial increase on any previous year. There were more diphtheria swabs from the various districts, particularly from Newport, and from the Isolation Hospital, and the number of specimens from the venereal disease treatment centres was nearly doubled. The number sent in from each sanitary district was approximately as follows :—Cowes 125, Newport 360, Ryde 74, Sandown-Shanklin 73, Ventnor 49, and the Rural District 59 ; there were 95 specimens from the Isolation Hospital, 85 from Longford Sanatorium, 328 from the venereal disease centres, 59 from ante-natal clinics, and 12 were from schools.

Further details of the 1,319 examinations are as follows :—

	Total number of Specimens Examined	Positive	Negative
Sputum for tubercle bacilli—			
For Medical Practitioners ... ..	180	21	159
For Tuberculosis Officers ... ..	153	74	79
Other fluids for tubercle bacilli ... ..	12	1	11
Swabs for diphtheria bacilli—			
For Medical Practitioners ... ..	343	35	308
Others, i.e., for Isolation Hospital, Schools, etc. ...	139	45	94
Bloods for Widal reaction ... ..	20	2	18
Smears, etc., for Gonococci ... ..	392	82	310
Other examinations ... ..	80	—	—
Total ... ..	1319	—	—

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

**Maternity Services.**—The domiciliary midwifery service which has to be provided under the Midwives Act, 1936, has been secured in this County through the district nursing associations, whose nurses in every area undertake midwifery work. In return, the Council makes a grant to these associations, which, together with the fees paid by the mothers, is calculated to meet the cost of providing the midwifery service. These grants amount to £1,450 per annum, and were payable from 1st August, 1937, when the scheme came into force. Prior to this date the nursing associations had been providing the service with the help of voluntary subscriptions, and an annual grant in aid was made towards the cost, this grant amounting to £356. No material change has therefore been made in this area as a result of the Midwives Act apart from the financial alteration.

Forty-seven midwives were in regular practice on the Island throughout the year, of whom 30 were employed by district nursing associations and 17 were in independent practice : seven of these last were engaged entirely in nursing homes and not in domiciliary midwifery. In addition, 15 other midwives practised here for part of the year only. The total number notifying their intention to practice was 62. In supervising the work of these midwives, Dr. Linford made 161 routine and 25 special visits of enquiry.

The midwives notified seven still-births, two deaths of child, 22 artificial feeding, eight performing last offices, and 18 liability to be a source of infection, and they also sent notices of having summoned medical help in 237 instances. An analysis of the 237 cases shows that 30 were for the child, one was for both mother and child, and 206 were for the mother. Of these last, 76 were for complications arising during pregnancy (16 for miscarriage or threatened miscarriage, and 60 for other causes during pregnancy) ; 110 were for causes arising during labour (37 of these being for obstructed or delayed labour, five for abnormal presentations, five for hæmorrhage, 59 for ruptured perineum, and four for other causes during labour) ; and 21 were for causes arising after labour.

In cases in which medical help is sought by a midwife the Council is liable for payment of the doctor's fee, but is required to recover the fee from the patient unless the family circumstances are necessitous. During the financial year ended 31st March, 1938, the doctor's fee was paid by the Council in 122 such cases. Full liability was undertaken in 46 of these ; in 59 the patient was required to repay part of the fee, and in 17 to repay the whole fee. The fees paid in these 122 cases amounted to £195 9s. The amount repaid by patients during the year, including arrears brought forward, was £50 9s.9d., so the net expenditure under this heading has been £144 19s.3d. (£182 16s.).

Financial assistance to a total of £5 16s. was granted towards the payment of home helps in three cases.



**Ante-Natal Care.**—The figures in Table XIV indicate that the midwives are giving due attention to the supervision of expectant mothers. The first two columns show that the district nurse midwives undertook the ante-natal supervision in 667 cases, and that each mother was seen on the average  $8\frac{1}{2}$  times. The midwives in independent practice recorded 1,542 ante-natal visits to 264 expectant mothers, an average of nearly six visits to each case. Regular sessions have been held at the ante-natal clinics started in 1936 by Dr. Linford, but the attendances in Ventnor did not seem to justify the continuance of a special clinic in this area, and it was therefore closed at the end of the year and a clinic was started, in January, 1938, at Lake, at the Women's Institute Hall. This meets twice each month, and is attended by expectant mothers from the Sandown and Shanklin districts. One hundred and ninety-five expectant mothers attended these clinics during 1937, and the total number of their attendances was 935. In the less populous districts, where no ante-natal clinic has been established, the expectant mothers who have booked with midwives are seen by arrangement by Dr. Linford in the patient's own home or, in one case, in the midwife's nursing home. The number of expectant mothers examined in 1937 apart from the clinics, was 63, and the attendances totalled 145. When these are added to the figures for the clinics, 258 mothers were seen ante-natally with the midwives on 1,080 occasions, or an average of four attendances on each case. It should be borne in mind that Ryde is a separate Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, with its own arrangements for ante-natal care, apart from the rest of the County, so these ante-natal clinic figures apply to the County Maternity and Child Welfare area only.

Dr. Linford reports that both at the clinics and in their own homes the expectant mothers are very willingly accepting ante-natal care, and the reluctance which some mothers felt when the service was first started has practically disappeared.

**Post-Natal Care.**—Weekly sessions have been held at the Newport House clinic. During the year 53 mothers attended, and their attendances numbered 120. In other areas mothers are seen post-natally as required at the ante-natal clinics, and, while no routine post-natal service has been provided for all mothers, those not making a complete and satisfactory recovery are being dealt with, and an increasing number are being referred by their own doctors.

**Birth Control.**—Your Committee made arrangements and paid travelling and other small expenses to enable two women to attend the Portsmouth Women's Welfare Centre for birth control. These women suffered from constitutional disease which would have been seriously aggravated by further pregnancies; kidney disease in the one case and pulmonary tuberculosis in the other.

**Maternity Cases at St. Mary's Hospital, Parkhurst.**—During the year 92 patients were admitted under your Committee's scheme, as against 78 and 42 in the two preceding years. One-third of these patients were admitted because of complications during pregnancy or labour, and 61 were classed as normal cases. The 31 abnormal cases included such conditions as these: toxæmia of pregnancy 10, including three cases of eclampsia, post maturity three, placenta prævia two, ante-partum hæmorrhage one, disproportion two, vomiting of pregnancy two, hydramnios one, tuberculosis of the lung two, pyelitis, pneumonia, anæmia or other illnesses of the mother, one each. Three of these patients were admitted for complications which developed after confinement at home, and seven were admitted for ante-natal treatment only: four of these last were readmitted later in the year for their confinements.

In addition to these 92 patients admitted through your Public Health Committee, 15 confinement cases were admitted during the year through the Public Assistance Committee, making a total of 107 admissions. There were 94 births in the hospital during the year: six still births and 88 live births, and five infants died within ten days of birth, two from heart disease, two prematurity, and one from convulsions. Three mothers died in the hospital, one from toxæmia (still birth), one from tuberculosis of the lung 41 days after confinement (live birth), and one from heart disease and asthma (live birth): the confinement in this case had taken place at home a few hours before admission, and she died 48 hours after admission to hospital. These deaths are not classified by the Registrar General as maternal deaths. The average duration of stay in hospital of the confinement cases was 21.4 days.

The number of maternity cases admitted each year to St. Mary's Hospital through your Public Health Committee since this arrangement was started in 1927 is as follows:—

1927	...	...	3	1933	...	...	13
1928	...	...	4	1934	...	...	22
1929	...	...	4	1935	...	...	42 (including 21 normal).
1930	...	...	6	1936	...	...	78 (including 43 normal).
1931	...	...	4	1937	...	...	92 (including 61 normal).
1932	...	...	7				

Ante-natal cases admitted for observation and treatment and discharged before confinement are included in these figures, and also a few cases confined at home and subsequently admitted to hospital.

The Public Health Committee pays £3 3s. per week to the Public Assistance Committee for each occupied bed, and patients are required to contribute towards the cost according to their means. During the financial year ended 31st March, 1937, the sum transferred by the Public Health Committee to the Public Assistance Committee in respect of maternity patients was £865 7s., and the income from patients during this period was £187, so the deficit met from the rates was £678. During the year ending 31st March, 1938, the sum transferred was £807 6s.6d., the income from patients was £294 9s.11d., and the deficit £512 16s.7d.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**—As from 1st October, 1937, puerperal fever was deleted from the diseases requiring to be notified, and all cases of febrile conditions, with a temperature of  $100.4^{\circ}$  or more, sustained during a period of 24 hours or recurring during that period, and occurring in a woman within 21 days of childbirth or miscarriage, were to be notified as puerperal pyrexia. Two notifications of puerperal fever were received during the year and

eight of puerperal pyrexia—a total of 10 compared with 15 and 19 respectively in the two previous years. Four of these were in the Rural District, two each in Ryde and Newport, and one each in Cowes and Ventnor. Six of these cases occurred in their own homes and four in nursing homes. Three of the nursing homes cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, as were also three of the cases occurring in their own homes. One of them was later transferred from the Isolation Hospital to the Royal County Hospital for operation for breast abscess. Although some of these patients were extremely ill, they all recovered, and part at least of the credit for this is due to the efficacy of the drug sulphanilamide, which has been used so successfully against streptococcal infections. The six patients admitted to the Fairlee Infectious Diseases Hospital remained there for periods varying between seven and 27 days, and averaging 17·5 days (five patients averaging 19·8 days each in the previous year). The cost to your Council was £62 13s.4d. Four of the patients were unable to contribute towards the cost and the other two were required to repay sums amounting to £8 8s., so the net cost borne by the Council was £54 5s.4d. (£58 15s.8d.).

**Maternal Deaths.**—It has already been mentioned that the Registrar General has not classified as a maternal death any of the three fatal cases at St. Mary's Hospital, although it would appear that one of these, if not two, might well have been so classified. A maternity patient admitted to the Royal I.W. County Hospital on account of toxæmia died there: and another patient, whose permanent residence was on the Island, died elsewhere from puerperal fever, so her death is included in this County's statistics. These two official maternity deaths give a maternal mortality of 1·8 per 1,000 total births.

**Dental Treatment.**—During the year 72 expectant or nursing mothers received dental treatment. Some of these required extractions only, the number of fresh applications for dentures during the year being 31, and, in addition, 9 who were provided with dentures in previous years had these repaired. Of these 40, your Committee required contributions towards the cost of the dentures in 19, and in the remaining 21 the financial circumstances were such that no contribution was required. Eighty-one individual dentures were supplied and 447 attendances were made by the mothers.

**Health Visiting.**—The number of visits made in each district is shown in Table XIV.

					To Expectant Mothers		To Infants under One.		Visits to Children aged 1—5
					First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	
Bembridge	...	...	Nurse	...	11	70	20	172	181
Brading	...	...	"	...	7	99	8	114	108
Brighstone	...	...	"	...	14	200	15	189	149
Carisbrooke	...	...	"	...	28	270	60	433	312
Chale	...	...	"	...	7	111	14	145	149
Cowes	...	...	Nurses	...	91	510	123	479	410
East Cowes	...	...	Nurse	...	34	266	53	219	303
Freshwater	...	...	"	...	37	273	38	414	392
Godshill	...	...	"	...	21	124	17	109	63
Newport and Arreton	...	...	Nurses	...	132	1031	150	562	892
Niton	...	...	Nurse	...	12	113	11	103	193
Northwood	...	...	"	...	30	146	22	137	57
Ryde District	...	...	"	...	86	790	171	1474	1868
St. Helens	...	...	"	...	9	141	16	171	355
Sandown	...	...	"	...	54	253	61	422	518
Seaview	...	...	"	...	8	66	9	132	116
Shanklin	...	...	Nurses	...	30	235	43	284	398
Ventnor	...	...	"	...	33	676	45	396	394
Wootton	...	...	Nurse	...	15	166	24	297	268
Yarmouth	...	...	"	...	8	90	17	88	136
Total	...	...	...	...	667	5630	917	6340	7262



TABLE XV.—SHOWING THE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR OF THE VARIOUS INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

District	Address of Centre	Days and Times of Meetings	Honorary Secretary	Nurse in Charge	M.O. and Times of Attendances	Total number of Attendances of Children during 1937		Total number of Children who attended at the Centres for the first time during 1937		Total number of Children in attendance at the Centres at the end of 1937	
						Children under 1 year	Children between 1 and 5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years
Bembridge ...	Church Room	2nd Wednesdays, 3 p.m.	Mrs. G. Wiltshire	Bennett, A.	County M.O., ... Monthly	44	94	8	2	7	19
Brading ...	Ditto	2nd and 4th Tuesdays	Mrs. Roach	Cockrane, D.	County M.O., ... Monthly (4th Tuesday)	91	87	12	5	7	25
Carisbrooke	Church Hall	1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 3 p.m.	Mrs. Heaton	Preston, H.	County M.O., ... Monthly (3rd Tuesday)	166	233	33	17	18	26
East Cowes...	Ditto, Adelaide Grove	2nd and 4th Mondays	Mrs. Clarke	Gutierrez, E.	County M.O., ... Monthly (2nd Monday)	221	212	30	7	24	69
West Cowes	St. Mary's Hall, Mary Street	Wednesdays, 3 p.m.	Mrs. Churchman	Preston, E. Moat, E.	County M.O., ... Fortnightly 1st... and 3rd Wed.)	788	821	63	11	63	91
Freshwater...	Parish Room	Alternate Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.	Mrs. McMaster	Bowler, M. Rodda, M.	Dr. Mansfield, ... Fortnightly	90	484	16	6	14	45
Newport ...	Church Hall	Thursdays, 2.30 p.m.	Miss Morey	Cheverton, D.	County M.O., ... Fortnightly	2024	1534	154	30	94	101
Parkhurst ... Barracks	Barracks	Alternate Thursdays, 3 p.m.	Mrs. Ross	Preston, H.	Officer in Charge, R.A.M.C.	63	88	12	21	3	11
Ryde ...	Melville Street	Fridays, 3 p.m.	Mr. S. Bird	Holmes, G.	Dr. Edwards, Weekly	1036	806	104	16	61	139
St. Helens ...	The Institute	2nd Thursdays, 2.30-4 p.m.	Mrs. Cockburn	Douglas, C.	Dr. Elliott, ... Monthly	64	156	9	3	7	28
Sandown ...	Rechabite Hall	2nd and 4th Thursdays	Miss Arnell	Dedman, E.	County M.O., ... Monthly (4th Thursday)	154	389	27	15	21	42
Seaview ...	Methodist School	1st Tuesdays, 3 p.m.	Mrs. Gordon	Mooney, A. M.	Dr. Aston, ... Monthly	107	155	15	2	9	32
Shanklin ...	St. Saviour's Hall	Alternate Tuesdays, 3 p.m.	Mrs. C. J. Allison	Matthews, E.	Dr. Melhuish	245	376	14	8	14	42
Ventnor ...	Church Hall, Alpine Road	2nd and 4th Thursdays	Mrs. Baker	Adamson, C. Jackson, M.	County M.O., ... Monthly (4th Thursday)	88	637	16	2	12	49
Wroxall ...	Church Hall	1st Fridays	Miss E. A. Forster	Gillett, N.	County M.O., ... Monthly (1st Friday)	119	84	15	4	13	11
Yarmouth ...	The Institute	1st Fridays, 2.30 p.m.	Miss M. Purcell	Hall, M.	County M.O., ...	67	112	14	4	12	14

**Infant Welfare Centres.**—Table XV sets out the various welfare centres with their times of meeting, etc., and some indication of the volume of work carried out can be gathered from the figures showing the attendances. More than half the infants on the Island attend them. The centres are organised and managed on a voluntary basis by Committees of ladies who devote to them a great deal of time and personal service, and by spreading the knowledge of infant hygiene they have been one of the agencies responsible for raising the standard of infant health and saving many infants' lives. The Council makes financial grants towards their expenses, and a medical officer on the public health staff attends 10 of them. Grants of milk are made by the Council in necessitous cases. During the financial year the cost of milk supplied to expectant and nursing mothers or to infants amounted to £138 10s.7d. This provided 1,564 weeks' supply to 134 cases. In the previous year the expenditure was £115 4s.0d. for 963 weeks' supply of milk to 74 cases.

**Crippling Defects and Orthopædics.**—The facilities for dealing with children suffering from crippling conditions have been extended by the establishment of an orthopædic clinic on the Island, which is attended by one of the surgeons from the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital at Alton. The Committee of the Royal I.W. County Hospital, at Ryde, readily agreed to the new clinic being held in their out-patient department, and the Council pay an agreed fee to the Alton Hospital Authorities in respect of each attendance by their Surgeon: these costs will then be apportioned according to the number of attendances between the Maternity and Child Welfare service in respect of children under school age, the Education Committees of the County Council and of the Borough of Newport in respect of school children, the Tuberculosis Service, etc. The first clinic was held in April, 1937, and thereafter the sessions were held at two-monthly intervals. The medical practitioners on the Island were informed of these arrangements, and they co-operated cordially from the outset. The new clinic was an immediate success, indeed, so many patients are being referred for consultation with Dr. Langston that it has already been decided to hold monthly sessions. Since the clinic was started, 18 children under school age have been sent to it, and they have made 19 attendances. Some of the new patients attending the clinic can be dealt with as out-patients, while others are recommended for admission to Alton, or other hospital, and, in addition, the patients who have already had hospital treatment are kept under observation. Exercises are prescribed for some, and a remedial exercise clinic, which meets fortnightly, has been started at the County Hospital for these patients. The first two sessions were attended by a Sister from Alton Hospital, but it is now managed by one of the Sisters at the County Hospital.

Prior to the establishment of the clinic at Ryde patients were referred for consultation to the orthopædic clinic at Portsmouth, by arrangement with the Portsmouth Education Authority, and three of your Committee's patients attended that clinic in 1937. The new clinic is obviously more convenient for Island patients and should ensure adequate treatment of all crippling conditions. It has developed out of the Portsmouth arrangement, and our gratitude is due to the Portsmouth Authorities for their invaluable help during the past seven years.

During the year three children under school age were admitted through your Committee to Alton Hospital. One (cleft palate) was discharged well after operative treatment. She was 56 days in hospital, and the other two were still in hospital at the end of the year, one with hip disease and the other with cleft palate.

**Visual Defects.**—Dr. Wallace is prepared to see at his school eye-clinics children under school age who have visual defect, and during the year five attendances were made, of which four were by new patients and one was by a child for re-examination. Three were supplied with spectacles for the first time, and two already had spectacles which were suitable.

**Infant Life Protection.**—The changes in the Children Act Register during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1937, are as follows :—

On Register 1st January, 1937	...	...	...	32
Added during the year 1937	...	...	...	14
				—
				46
Removed during 1937	...	...	...	20
To care of relations	...	...	15	
To Parkhurst Institution	...	...	1	
Over nine years of age	...	...	1	
Left Island	...	...	3	
				—
On Register 31st December, 1937	...	...	...	26
				—

These numbers are for the whole Island except the Borough of Ryde. During the year 132 visits of inspection were made to these children, 45 by the Medical Officers, 87 by the Health Visitors.

Table XVI summarises some of the work done in the various districts during the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Nursing Association	Medical Cases	Surgical Cases	TOTAL	Midwifery Cases	Maternity Cases	TOTAL
Bembridge ... ..	81	7	88	4	3	7
Brading ... ..	25	15	40	7	1	8
Brighstone, Brook, Mottistone, and Calbourne ... ..	81	51	132	14	1	15
Carisbrooke, Porchfield, Chillerton, and Gatcombe ... ..	125	46	171	23	7	30
Chale, Kingston, and Shorwell ... ..	55	30	85	2	6	8
Cowes ... ..	238	175	413	44	51	95
East Cowes and Whippingham ... ..	164	100	264	14	12	26
Freshwater and Totland ... ..	156	125	281	19	19	38
Godshill and Wroxall ... ..	56	23	79	11	10	21
Newport and Arreton ... ..	413	183	596	84	30	114
Niton, Whitwell, and St. Lawrence ... ..	19	73	92	6	6	12
Northwood and Gurnard ... ..	77	51	128	8	21	29
Ryde ... ..	222	70	292	54	31	85
St. Helens ... ..	48	40	88	6	6	12
Sandown and Lake ... ..	54	72	126	—	—	—
Sandown and Newchurch ... ..	7	21	28	25	12	37
Seaview and Nettlestone ... ..	128	27	155	7	2	9
Shanklin ... ..	218	35	253	16	3	19
Ventnor and Bonchurch ... ..	121	28	149	15	15	30
Wootton Bridge and District ... ..	39	47	86	6	7	13
Yarmouth, Thorley, Newtown, and Shalfleet ... ..	92	57	149	6	4	10
Totals ... ..	2419	1276	3695	371	247	618

METEOROLOGY.

To Mr. John Dover, M.A., of Totland, and Dr. Oliver Hempson, the Medical Superintendent of the Royal National Hospital, Ventnor, I am again indebted for the figures in Table XVII, and the notes which follow this have been taken from Mr. Dover's very full and valuable report. His reports should be referred to by anyone desiring a comprehensive and authoritative statement of the meteorological conditions of the Island.

Month	Temperature of the Air						Rainfall in Inches		Hours of Sunshine	
	Totland Maximum	Ventnor Maximum	Totland Minimum	Ventnor Minimum	Totland Average Mean	Ventnor Mean	Totland	Ventnor	Totland	Ventnor
January ...	52.1	53.0	28.6	29.0	44.1	44.9	5.84	6.05	57.9	61.5
February ...	53.9	54.0	32.8	33.0	45.2	45.9	5.11	5.37	67.9	68.9
March ...	51.8	54.0	27.8	29.0	40.9	41.8	3.03	4.34	138.7	148.1
April ...	64.2	66.0	36.2	39.0	49.2	50.5	2.27	2.13	153.0	154.6
May ...	73.7	72.0	38.4	43.0	54.1	55.5	2.91	1.70	198.0	203.4
June ...	76.8	77.0	45.7	47.0	58.3	59.4	0.59	0.85	217.8	246.6
July ...	73.1	74.0	50.1	52.0	61.4	61.8	1.84	1.57	173.6	172.4
August....	83.2	84.0	50.2	52.0	63.1	64.6	2.28	1.64	227.9	222.7
September ...	70.2	71.0	44.1	45.0	58.2	59.5	2.52	2.72	172.1	179.6
October ...	66.2	66.0	38.8	45.0	53.7	55.4	3.78	2.37	108.9	123.5
November ...	57.4	59.0	29.8	30.0	43.4	47.0	2.60	2.07	73.8	95.3
December ...	53.0	57.0	28.7	31.0	40.5	41.7	5.83	6.32	52.4	57.9
Year 1937 ...	83.2	84.0	27.8	29.0	51.0	52.3	38.60	37.13	1642.0	1734.5

The year was very lacking in sunshine, but not quite so bad as 1936. The sunniest of all recognised stations in the British Isles for the year 1937 was Ventnor Park, with 1742.9 hours of bright sunshine, and the amount recorded at the Royal National Hospital was only 8 hours less ; Totland had 1642 hours and had 71 sunless days. The brightest month at Totland was August, with 228 sunshine hours ; but at Ventnor, June had 246 hours.



Mr. Dover again compares the average daily shade temperature at Totland with that at Greenwich, the averages being taken for Totland for the last 52 years and Greenwich for 97 years. By night throughout the year Totland is warmer than Greenwich, and by day also during the three dark months (November, December and January), when the sun has little power, Totland is the warmer of the two places. During the other nine months of the year Greenwich is hotter by day than Totland, especially in June, July and August. The coldest nights at Totland usually occur during the first half of February, and the warmest days during the first half of August. The sea is usually coldest about the middle of February. This year the sea temperature was 46·4 at the beginning of the year, and it reached its coldest, 42·8, on 1st and 6th March. On 13th June it was up to 61·2 : by 22nd July it was 63·1, and it reached its warmest, 68·8, on 8th September, and on 26th September was still as warm as 63·0. At the end of the year it was 44·7.

The average yearly rainfall at Totland for 50 years is 29·22 inches, and the 38·57 inches which fell in 1937 is a high record for this period. The wettest months were January, February and December, and the driest was June. January and February had 50 days of the 59 with rain amounting to 10·95 inches. Mr. Dover remarks that the last four years' rainfall of 129·93 inches has made up for the very dry year of 1933, which had 21·09 inches only; springs at the close of the year were up to a good strength. Newport was the wettest place on the Island with a rainfall of 45·78 inches.

The year on the whole was a quiet one, with 40,740 miles of wind as against a yearly average of about 52,000, or 1,000 miles per week. May as usual was the quietest month. There were 91 calm days and only 14 gales, with not one of them of great violence. The atmosphere was rather damp at Totland, with its mean humidity up to 81·5 per cent. The cause of this was the great lack of wind, and what did come was very much from the west or north-west, which usually means a damp air and plenty of cloud.

Lightning was seen on seven days and thunder heard on ten days.









